

Ives House
Coudersport, Pennsylvania

HABS No. Pa.-528

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 5-Pennsylvania

Historic American Buildings Survey
J. Howard Hicks, District Officer
134 East 10th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania

IVES HOUSE
Coudersport, Potter County, Pennsylvania

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Owner

Dr. David E. Jacobs, M.D.

Date of Erection

1843.

Architect

Timothy Ives, Jr.

Builder

John Crosier and George Snyder. Original contract exists.

Present Condition

Good.

Number of Stories

Two, attic and basement, main part of building, one story in wings.

Materials of Construction

Sandstone, White pine, Cherry, roof with modern covering.

Other Existing Records

Information supplied by Dr. David E. Jacobs, M. D., Mrs. Eva D. Thompson. Photographs, drawings, personal interviews.

Additional Data

Bibliography-An illustrated History of the Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania, by William H. Egle, M. D., published by DeWitt C. Goodrich and Co., Harrisburg, Pa., 1876, County of Potter.

History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, published by J. H. Beers and Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1890.

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Possibly the most impressive style of home in America is the adaptation of the Greek temple. Many lovely homes were constructed during the Greek temple revival period. The massive pillars which usually adorn the front of the buildings photograph themselves upon the mind, when the delicate beauty of the smaller type of both pillar and house are too often overlooked. The classic revival period was followed throughout northwestern Pennsylvania to an unusual extent, perhaps owing to the fact that this section of the country was settled after the Revolutionary War, and when the first rude log structures had to be replaced, the prevailing fad was Greek temple imitation.

The Ives House of Coudersport is a fine example of this imitation, combining with the wings of the house an unusually lovely picture. This house was built between April 1, 1843 and September 1, 1843. The original contract for the building of this house calls for Timothy Ives, Jr. to furnish all material, and for John Crosier and George Snyder of the town of Cuba, N. Y. to build same for the sum of \$280, of which \$100 was to be in cash, and the balance to be paid in goods from the store of Mr. Ives, who was also to provide board for three men for the period of the contract. The contract provided that the house must be finished in three months. It was signed in the presence of L. F. Meynard.

Mrs. Eva A. Thompson, living within a block of the Ives House, a former friend of the family confirmed what the histories have to say regarding the house and the family.

The earliest record of Timothy Ives in connection with Coudersport says-"In 1825, Timothy Ives, the second inhabitant of Coudersport was elected treasurer of Potter County, vice Dr. Harry Lyman. Mr. Ives built a store for general merchandise and a dwelling house in Coudersport the following year." Tradition says that the first house which Mr. Ives built was located on Second Street. From another item in history of Potter County-"In 1838 John Rose committed suicide by shooting in a barn belonging to Timothy Ives, (north side of 3rd Street near the river), directly opposite the barn of H. J. Olmstead." These items seem to confirm tradition in regard to the first house of Timothy Ives, Jr.

According to the original commission Timothy Ives, Jr. was commissioned associate judge March 10, 1835 by Governor George Wolf, Governor of Pennsylvania. The contract for building the first court house in Potter County was sold to Judge Ives and Almon Woodcock, and the work was completed by September, 1835. The first court was held September 28, 1835. This was the date for the official separation of McKean and Potter Counties. Associate judges Timothy Ives, Jr. and Seneca Freeman were present.

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In 1839 F. B. Hamlin was the editor of the Pennant, and he with Timothy Ives, Jr., and W. Caldwell were the owners, Timothy Ives, Jr., was appointed postmaster of Coudersport, Potter County, Pennsylvania from April 1, 1827 to July 1, 1832.

The present court house in Coudersport was erected in 1853 and the first services held in it were the funeral ceremonies of the daughter of Judge Ives, Mrs. N. L. Dyke, in October 1853, owing to the fact that her church, the Methodist Episcopal was not completed. The bell of the new court house, a present of Judge Ives, had just been placed in the tower and was used for the first time at the funeral services. Judge Timothy Ives, Jr. had extensive land holdings. He married Mary Losie, and they had one daughter, Mary, who later became Mrs. N. L. Dyke. Mrs. Dyke had one son, Watson Dyke (deceased) and he had a son Charles and a daughter Nellie. When Charles Dyke, the grandson died, the court house bell, which had not been rung for years was tolled.

Judge Timothy Ives was also representative from Potter County in the State Assembly 1845-47. In 1857 Appleton Butterworth who was the register and recorder of Potter County died in office and Judge Ives was appointed to fill the unexpired term. David R. Porter, Governor of Pennsylvania also appointed Judge Ives February 21, 1842 to be associate judge. Judge Ives was a member of Eulalia Lodge F. and A. M. and of No. 342 A.Y.M. which was chartered March 4th, 1861 with him as master.

The present owner of the Ives House Dr. David E. Jacobs is also a member of the Maconio fraternity. He bought this property in 1920 of the heirs of the Dyke estate.

The Ives House is located on the southwest corner of Third and East Streets, directly back of the Court House, in Coudersport, Potter County, Pennsylvania. It is set back from the sidewalk about twenty feet, and a flag stone walk leads from the side walk to a single stone step with leads to the portico floor directly opposite to the main entrance. It is a two story, attic and basement building in the main part, and of one story and attic in the wings. The front portico is supported by four fluted Ionic pillars with base. The flooring of the portico is of pine boards, the base board or apron is of pine with a sandstone foundation below.

The main entrance is placed in the southeast corner of the main part of the house with two shuttered windows to the left or west of it and three above it on the second floor. There is a wing to each side of the main part of the house, with an entrance in the

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center of the building and a shuttered window to each side. All of the windows are of two sash, each with six lights of glass 10" x 14". A third wing, to the rear and on the east side of the main building has been converted into a garage, however, the general effect has been carried out to conform with the rest of the house. The corners of the main part of the south elevation are ornamented with classical, plain wooden pilasters reaching from the floor of the house, having a plain moulded base, with plain moulded classical cap, to the entablature which surmounts the portico columns and ornaments the entire main part of the house under the cornice proper.

The gable is enclosed by a moulded cornice with a return at the bottom which surrounds the three sides of the house directly under the roof at the sides, with a return at the rear of the house. The gable is composed of plain tongue and grooved boards, and the entire front or south elevation of the main part of the house is sided in the same manner. The wings, however, have lap siding. A corresponding cornice adorns the front of the wings, and is located directly under the eaves.

The main entrance is reached from the porch by a wooden door sill 10" rise to floor of the house. The sides of the entrance are flanked by plain wooden pilasters with cap composed of several members, and no base. The doorway is recessed. The door is a single raised panel door. The panel is ornamented with moulding and has an ornamental bronze door-knocker with the name of Timothy Ives engraved on it. Narrow side lights are on each side of the door. About 1/4 of the space at the bottom is of wood, the upper part is set with three lights of glass, and a transom over the door is also set with three lights of glass.

These lights are enclosed with moulding trim. There is an ornamental transom bar curved and carved with a Greek key design. The windows have plain wooden sills. The doorways of the wings are ornamented by plain wooden pilasters without base but with plain cap. The door is a single paneled door trimmed with mouldings and with transom light of glass. The outer corners of the wings are ornamented with plain pilasters which have a moulded cap and base. The gables of the wings have a delicate moulded cornice with a short return.

Each wing has one chimney at the end of the wing. The main portion of the house has two chimneys placed about 1/3 of the length of the roof apart and 1/3 of the length from the front and back. Each wing has two old stone steps to doorway. The wings are roofed with rolled asphalt roofing, the main part with wood shingles. Several small windows or ventilators pierce the sides of the house close to the roof. A window has been cut into the second floor of the main building on the west side near to the front of the house.

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The main entrance of the house leads into a wide hallway with stairs on the right hand side to the second floor. The newel post and rail are of cherry and are plain designed. The first floor consists of parlor, hall, dining room, library, drawing room and kitchen with smaller store and utility rooms. A door has been opened from the kitchen to the garage for convenience. The second floor has four bed rooms, halls, bath and storage space. The attic is a storage place, and there are also storage attics over the wings.

Altogether the Ives House is a very stately home.

Amie Scott Baxter

Approved

Howard Hicks
District Officer

Rev. Dec. 21, 38 T.W.